

# *Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN):*

## What Schools Need to Know About Us and Transition

Laura Elder, Director of Transition

Jennifer Quinn and Rhonda Mumford, Post-Secondary Transition Coordinators

DDSN, ID/RD Division



# What you will learn today!

By the end of this presentation, you will be able to answer these questions:

- Why do my students need to be connected to DDSN?
- What services are available through DDSN?
- How can I be sure my students are linked with DDSN?
- How to apply for DDSN services?
- How are DDSN services funded?
- How can I help my students and families prepare for adult services they may need?

Why do my  
students need  
DDSN?



LEAVING SCHOOL IS A BIG  
TRANSITION!

# KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SCHOOL AND ADULT WORLD

FUNDING FOR  
ADULT SERVICES IS  
DIFFERENT THAN  
FOR SCHOOL  
SERVICES



ADULT SERVICES  
REQUIRE APPLICATION AND  
DETERMINATION OF  
ELIGIBILITY



# KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SCHOOL AND THE ADULT WORLD

Students age out of school



DDSN Services continue for many years and stages of life



Schools serve students of specific ages. Agencies, like DDSN, serve people, regardless of age, for many years.

# HOW CAN I HELP MY STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE?

## UNDERSTAND:

1. WHAT KIND OF FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING DOES THE STUDENT NEED OR WANT?

2. WHAT KIND OF JOB/CAREER DOES THE STUDENT WANT?

3. WHERE DOES THE STUDENT WANT TO LIVE AND HOW DOES HE/SHE WANT TO SPEND HIS/HER FREE TIME?

*Does the student need assistance to  
attain what is needed or desired?*

# LINKING WITH AGENCIES IS AN EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE



Students that received assistance from 3-6 community-based agencies (as compared to students with assistance from 0-2 agencies) were more likely to be engaged in post-school employment or education. (NSTTAC, 2011)

# AGENCY LINKAGES

## STATE AGENCIES

- South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department
- SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
- SC Department of Employment and Workforce Development

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- DDSN Local Providers
- Centers for Independent Living- ABLE South Carolina
- LIFE College Programs or local community or other colleges
- Family Connection
- SC Assistive Technology Center
- Local Public transportation



# WHO DOES DDSN SERVE?

❖ DDSN serves South Carolinians, of any age, who request services and are determined to have a severe, lifelong disability of:

- ❖ intellectual disability,
- ❖ Autism Spectrum Disorder,
- ❖ Head injury
- ❖ Spinal cord injury
- ❖ and conditions similar/related to each of these four disabilities.

# What is DDSN's Mission?

- ❖ DDSN's mission is to assist people with disabilities and their families in meeting needs, pursuing possibilities and achieving life goals, and to minimize the occurrence and reduce the severity of disabilities through prevention.

## TYPES OF SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH DDSN

- When needed, the following types of services are available through DDSN:
  - Individual/Family Support Services
  - Adult Day Services (Day Activity, Community Services, Group employment)
  - Employment Services
  - Residential Services

# HOW CAN I KNOW IF MY STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE?

- ❖ Have Release of Information forms completed and signed for your student.
- ❖ Scan the completed form to a Post-Secondary Transition Coordinator
- ❖ The Coordinator can then share information about a student's status with DDSN, including:
  - ❖ If eligible or not
  - ❖ Assistance to connect with DDSN if not yet eligible
  - ❖ If a case manager is assigned or not and if so his/her name and agency
  - ❖ Services /programs in which the student is enrolled or awaiting.
- ❖ If you are unsure if a student is eligible, you can contact DDSN:

Sheri Matthews by  
Phone- (803) 898-2235 or  
E-mail- [smatthews@ddsn.sc.gov](mailto:smatthews@ddsn.sc.gov)

# HOW DO YOU APPLY TO DDSN?

*DDSN Eligibility begins with a phone.*

**The number to call is:  
1-800-289-7012**

**Calls are answered from 8:30am to  
5:00pm, Monday through Friday.**

# Where do I start?

## When Parents or Students call:

- ❖ Have your student's basic information available including:
  - Full name
  - Date of Birth
  - Address
  - Social Security Number,
  - Medicaid ID Number (if eligible)
  - E-mail address
- ❖ Plan to spend about 15 minutes on the phone.
- ❖ Students/Parents will be asked questions about your residency in South Carolina.
- ❖ Students/parents will be asked general questions about the student's disability.
- ❖ Unless you are seeking Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) eligibility, student/parent will be asked to choose three Intake Providers from a list read to you. The Intake Provider will assist you through the eligibility process.
- ❖ If is seeking seeking Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) eligibility, a DDSN Autism Eligibility Coordinator will be available to assist them.

# Where do I start?

## After the call:

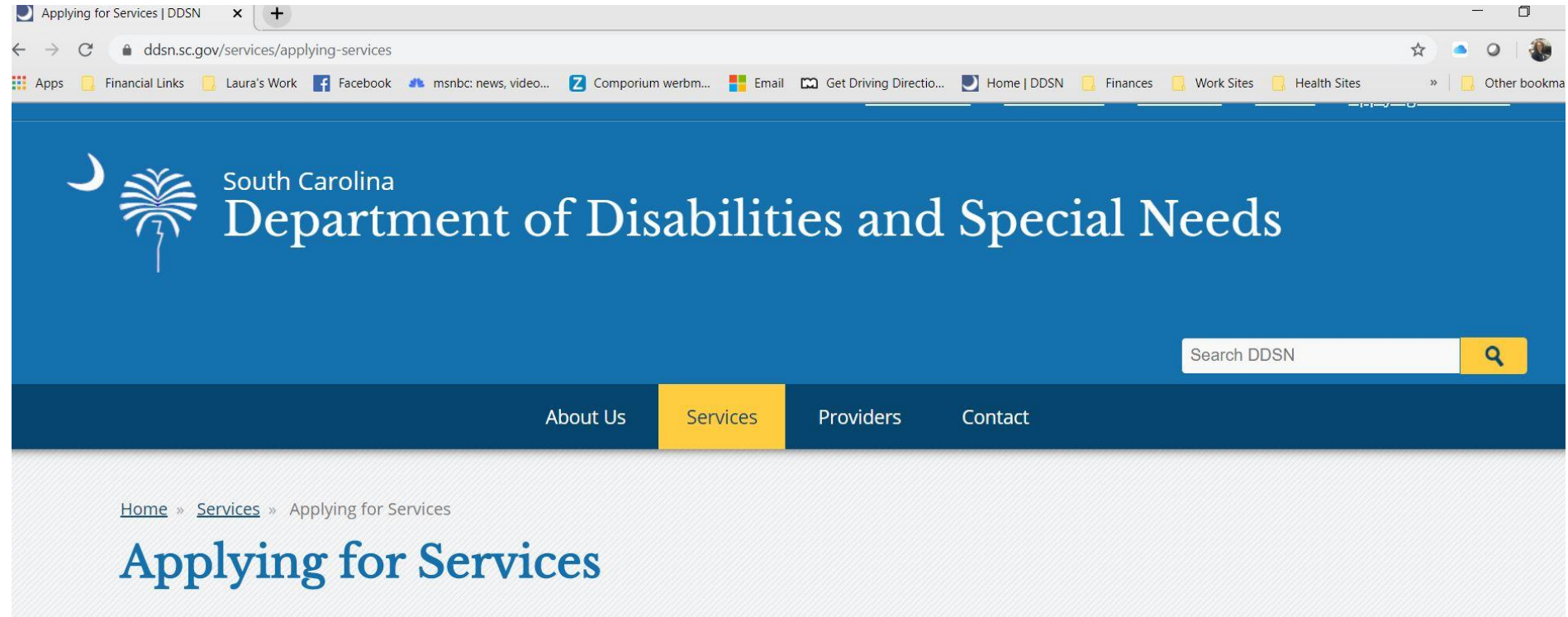
- ❖ Within about 1 week, expect a letter from DDSN with information about services. Forms should be completed, signed and returned.
- ❖ Within about 2 weeks, unless student/family is seeking Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) eligibility, they should expect a call from their Intake Provider.
- ❖ If the student/family are seeking Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) eligibility, within about 2 weeks, they can expect a call from an Autism Eligibility Coordinator.
- ❖ If they do not receive the letter from DDSN or do not receive a phone call from either an Intake Service Provider or Autism Eligibility Coordinator, please call DDSN at **1-800-289-7012**.

Please go to the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs website for more information

[www.ddsn.sc.gov](http://www.ddsn.sc.gov)

Select the Services tab and select

Applying for Services



The South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) is the state agency that provides services to children and adults with severe, lifelong disabilities.

DDSN serves people in 7 different categories of eligibility

- Intellectual Disability
- Related Disability (i.e., a disability related to an Intellectual Disability)
- High Risk Infantli>
- Autism Spectrum Disorder



How can I as a  
teacher help?

Provide copies of records  
and/or help fill out packet

Encourage families to  
respond to requests



**Answer  
the  
Call .**

Contact your DDSN Transition Specialist for updates!

# CASE MANAGERS ARE THE LOCAL CONTACT



Once eligible, the person / family may select a case management provider.

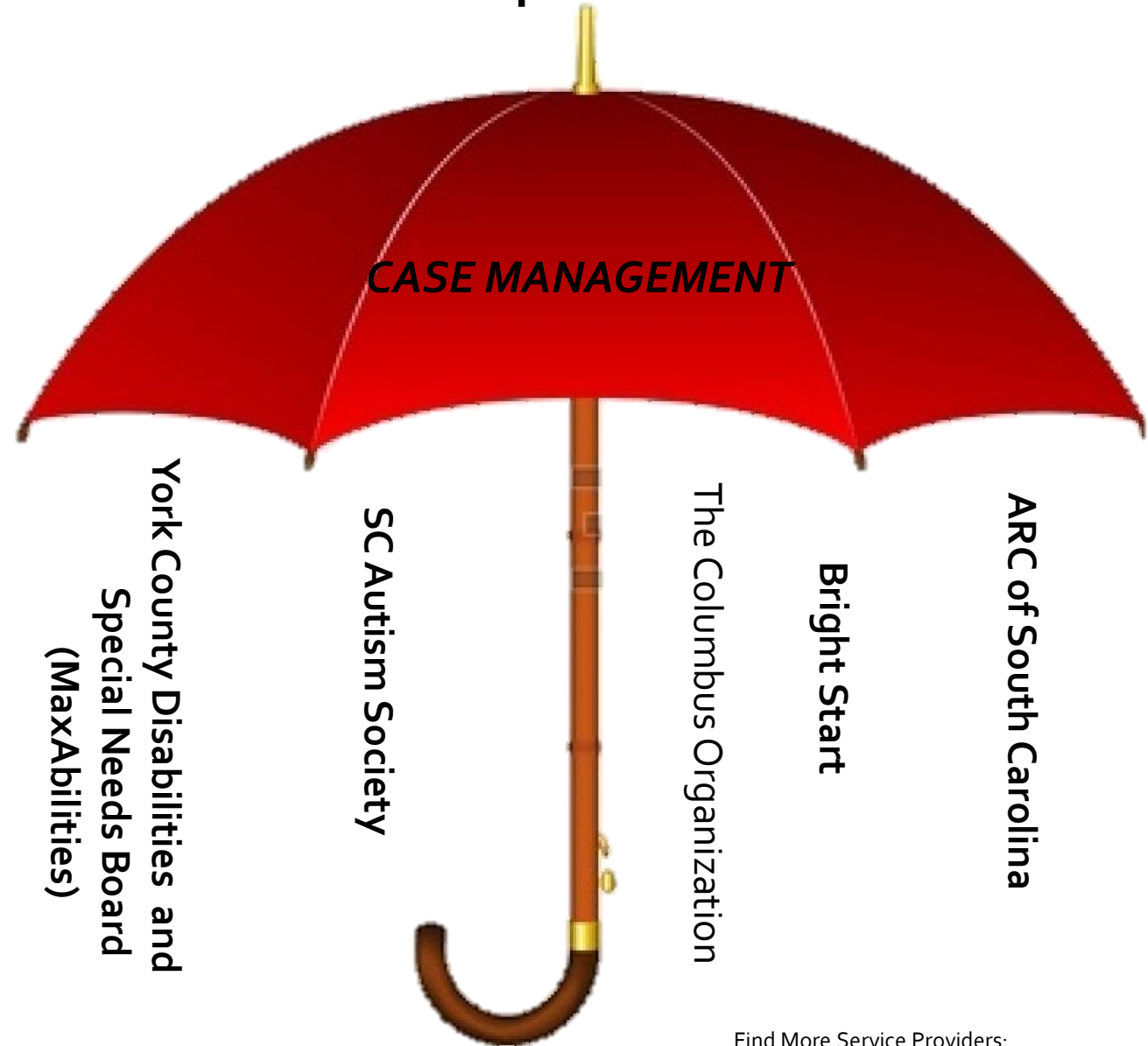
# SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Every County has a local  
Department of Disabilities  
and Special Needs Board.

Local boards are providers of  
some DDSN-sponsored  
services

Each county has private  
service providers.

Parents/Students can choose  
services providers for the  
services that are deemed  
appropriate in the student's  
plan



Find More Service Providers:  
<https://app.ddsn.sc.gov/public/directory/landing.do>

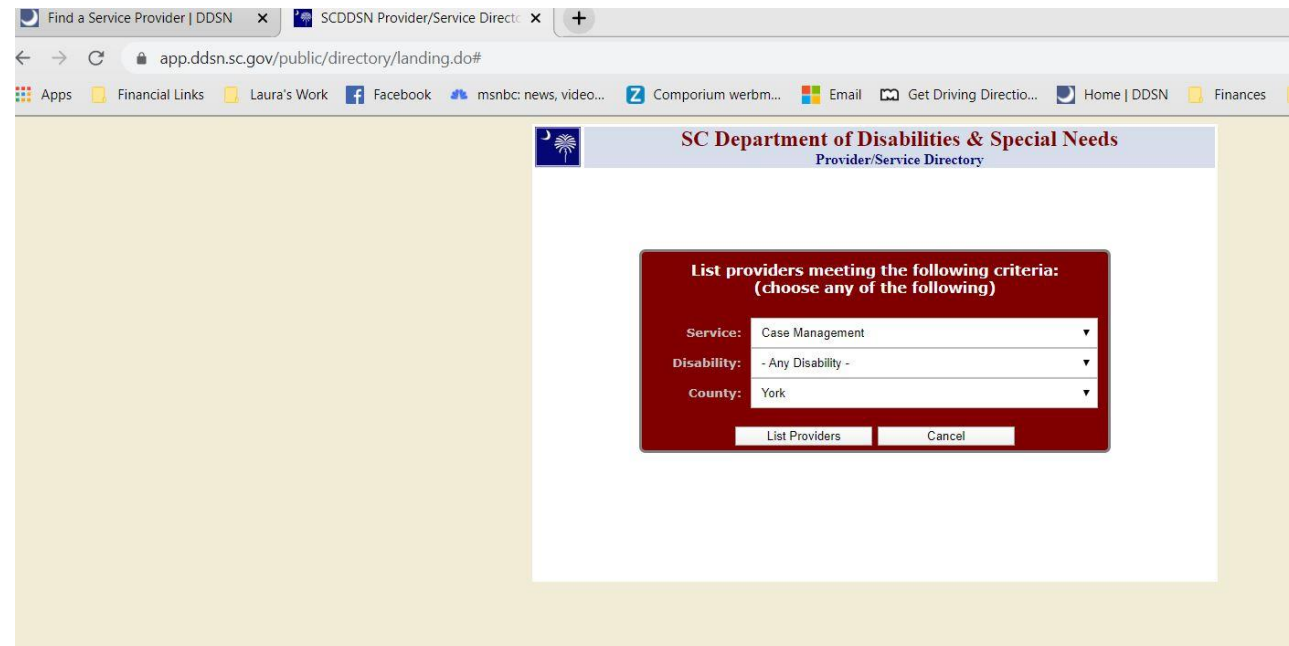
Check the  
DDSN website  
for the most  
current list of  
service  
providers for  
your area

ddsn.sc.gov



To assist waiver consumers and case managers finding service providers for their waiver needs, the following links are provided:

- **DDSN Provider/Service Directory:** This link organizes by county DDSN Qualified Providers, which have been approved by DDSN. Some Qualified Providers' provide multiple services. Services include:
  - Intake to Obtain DDSN Eligibility
  - Case Management
  - Early Intervention
  - Day Activity



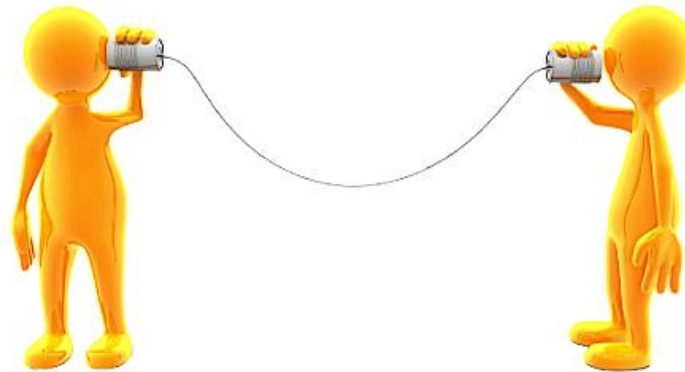
# DDSN CASE MANAGERS ARE KEY

WHEN NEEDED, CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES MAY BE PROVIDED. The case manager will:

- Assess the student's needs,
- Develop a plan to address those needs
- Implement the plan which may include linking to needed services such as
  - SC Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Home and Community Based Waiver services and programs
  - Medicaid services
  - Other DDSN funded services

How can I as a teacher help?

Stay in touch with student's case manager



Call with concerns and invite to IEP meetings

## Use the Case Manager Communication form

Information Sharing Tool for Transition Planning – School & DDSN Case Management Provider Agencies

Youth:	Date of Birth:	Exit year:
Parent:	Legal guardian: Y N	Phone:
Teacher:	High School:	Phone:
Case Manager:	Provider:	Phone:
VR Counselor:		Phone:

-----Teacher Fills In-----

Post-Secondary Employment Goal	
Post-Secondary Education Goal	
Post-Secondary Independent Living Goal	
VR Update:	
Teacher Signature:	Date:

-----Case Manager Fills In-----

Waiver Update (circle one)		
On Waiver: IDRD CSW	On wait list: IDRD CSW	Not on either (why: )

Current Services/linkage(s)	Contact	Waiver/Other Source	Notes

After school is completed:

Support Ideas	Contact	Waiver/Other	Wait list?	Notes
			Y N Maybe	
			Y N Maybe	
			Y N Maybe	
			Y N Maybe	

Case Manager Signature:	Date:
-------------------------	-------

# FUNDING OF SERVICES

- \*State funds
- \*Medicaid
- \*Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver





# WHAT ARE MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVERS?



Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers are Medicaid –funded programs that offer services in addition to those available through "regular" Medicaid for special populations of people

There are currently seven (7) different approved HCBS Waivers in South Carolina.

DDSN operates three (3) HCBS Waivers



# WHAT ARE MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVERS?



The three (3) DDSN operated HCBS Waivers are designed to serve South Carolinians with:

- ✓ intellectual disability,
- ✓ Autism Spectrum Disorder,
- ✓ Head injury
- ✓ Spinal cord injury
- ✓ and conditions similar/related to each of these four disabilities.

# COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WAIVER

- SEE HANDOUT ON WEBSITE

(<https://ddsn.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Resources/Medicaid%20HCBS%20Waiver/Community%20Support%20Waiver%20Information%20Sheet%2011-2019.pdf>)

- Case Manager can assist a student/family to determine if this is something they may be eligible for and place name on waiting list.
- Has an annual cap on the amount of services that can be purchased.
- All services are based on the person's assessed needs.

# ID/RD WAIVER

- SEE HANDOUT ON WEBSITE

(<https://ddsn.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Resources/Medicaid%20HCBS%20Waiver/ID-RD%20Information%20Sheet%20.pdf>)

- Case Manager can assist a student/family to determine if this is something they may be eligible for and place name on waiting list.
- No annual cap on the amount of services that can be purchased.
- All services are based on the person's assessed needs.

# HASCI WAIVER

- SEE HANDOUT ON WEBSITE  
(<https://ddsn.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Services/HASCI%20Waiver%20Fact%20Sheet%209-18.pdf>)
- Serves people who have suffered a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury or have a similar condition.
- Currently, there is no waiting list for this waiver.
- All services are based on the person's assessed needs.

DDSN  
PROVIDES  
LIFE LONG  
SERVICES  
WHICH  
PLACES A  
DEMAND ON  
THE SYSTEM

FAMILIES MUST APPLY TO BE  
ON A WAIVER WAITING LIST

**APPLY NOW**

DDSN HAS LIMITED SPACE  
AND RESOURCES WHICH  
ALSO MAY PROVIDE A WAIT  
FOR SERVICES



HOW CAN I  
HELP MY  
STUDENT?

EDUCATE FAMILIES  
ABOUT THE AGENCY AND  
HOW TO CONNECT



Ensure the **STUDENT IS**  
connected and receiving  
or awaiting needed  
services and programs



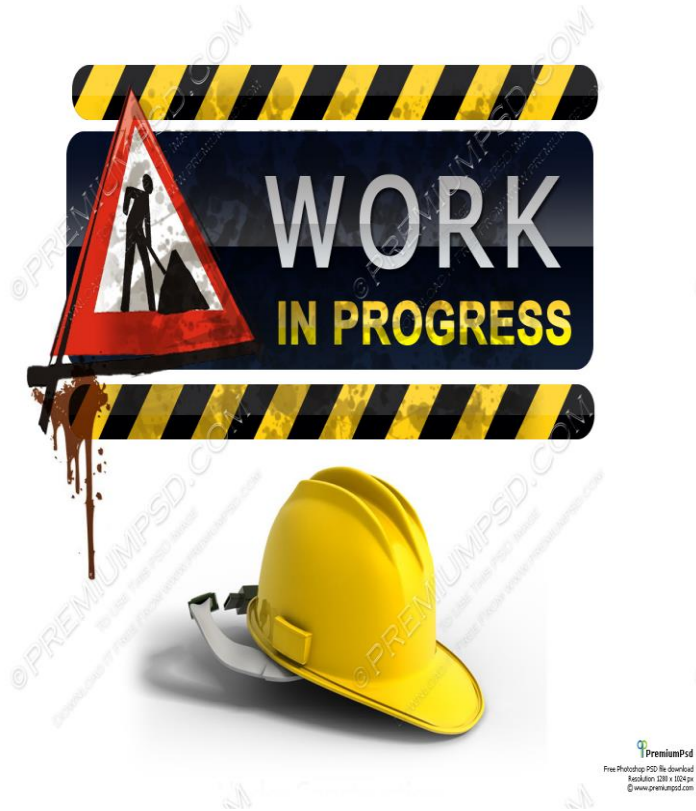
[www.shutterstock.com](http://www.shutterstock.com) • 438217681

Your DDSN Transition  
Specialist can help you !

# DDSN's Philosophy: Employment First

- ❖ Individual integrated employment at or above minimum wage is the preferred outcome for working age adults, regardless of disability.
- ❖ This is the foundation for assessment and planning for individuals receiving services through DDSN.
- ❖ We encourage all people who want to work (in any fashion) to apply to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department which is the state agency whose mission is to assist people with disabilities to achieve and maintain competitive employment.

HOW CAN I  
HELP MY  
STUDENT?



ALL STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE  
FOR PRE-EMPLOYMENT  
TRANSITION SERVICES!

SCVRD IS THE  
STATE AGENCY FOR  
WORK

REFER students TO  
SCVRD

WORK WITH the  
student's SCVRD  
COUNSELOR



# STATE FUNDED FOLLOW ALONG

(DDSN funded  
program)

- ❖ Specifically designed to provide on-going support for those students who have achieved stability on the job are considered successfully employed.
- ❖ Program enrollment can occur upon graduation and South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation has closed the student's case.



PREPAING  
STUDENTS  
FOR LIFE  
AFTER HIGH  
SCHOOL





DDSN wants  
to provide  
services in the  
most  
integrated,  
home and  
community  
based setting



Services moving from disability segregated settings to community inclusive!

# What are the Expected Skills for Graduating Youth With Disabilities?

Young adults will have their services individualized and integrated into their community therefore they will be expected to:

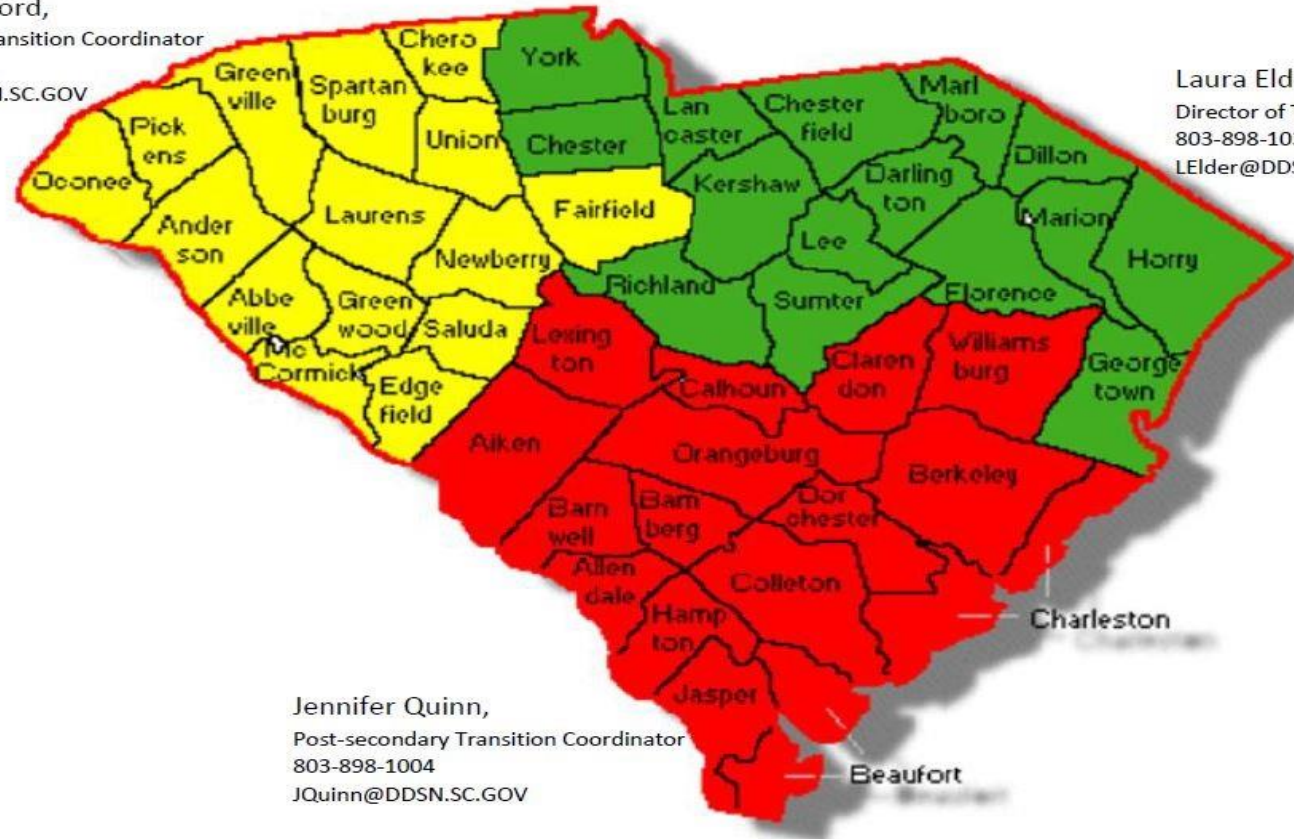
- Direct how they spend their day.
- Have the social skills to interact with their community, not just paid staff/others with similar disabilities.
- Engage in employment opportunities within the community, paid at least minimum wage, alongside peers without disabilities, and have better employment choices/fits.



Contact Your  
Transition  
Coordinator!

THANK YOU!

Rhonda Mumford,  
Post-secondary Transition Coordinator  
803-528-9817  
RMumford@DDSN.SC.GOV



Laura Elder,  
Director of Transition  
803-898-1031  
LElder@DDSN.SC.GOV

Jennifer Quinn,  
Post-secondary Transition Coordinator  
803-898-1004  
JQuinn@DDSN.SC.GOV

GET THIS MAP ON THE DDSN TRANSITION SERVICES  
WEBPAGE!

QUESTIONS?

Lelder@ddsn.  
sc.gov

Rmumford@d  
dsn.sc.gov

